

FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SECURITY: CONFIDENTIAL

790 006-0952

AIR POUCH

714.00/8-450

TO: Department of State

FROM: GUATEMALA 134

August 4, 1950

REF

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH [REDACTED] REGARDING THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION.

EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
AUG 9 1950
[Signature]

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For Dept.
use only.
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B/EC

1/ Enclosed is a memorandum prepared by Civil Attaché Collins D. ALMON in regard to a conversation he had on August 3 with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who was one of the leaders of the opposition during the recent disturbances.

It is believed the Department will find this memorandum of interest in connection with the political situation. Also, it will serve by way of introduction should [REDACTED] visit the Department as he indicated to Mr. Almon that he expected to do.

B/EC

B/EC

[Signature]

Milton K. Wells
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosures

Memorandum of August 3
by Collins D. Almon

Copy to Guatemala Desk Officer

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEWED BY [Signature] DATE [Signature]
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1950 AUG 8 PM 4

HOWARD S. [REDACTED]
DC/R

AUG 4 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

AUG 15 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

MKWells/mch

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action officer must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

CONFIDENTIAL

F790 006-0953

Enclosure to Despatch no. 134
dated August 4, 1950, from
the American Embassy, Guatemala.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WELLS

3 August 1950

1. On 2 August 1950 I talked with [REDACTED] who was one of the leaders of the opposition during the disturbances of 20-25 July. BI, EC
2. He told me that on 31 July 1950 the President sent him a message that he would like to talk with him. [REDACTED] said he talked with the President from 6:30 P.M. to 9 P.M. on that same day. He said the main purpose of the President's wanting to see him seemed to be to obtain first-hand information concerning the current views of the opposition, and he also perhaps had the hope that he would be able to get the opposition leaders to see things more his way. BI, EC
3. [REDACTED] said he told the President that the opposition forces, that is, the students, professional people and businessmen, were dissatisfied with the policy which the government had carried out since 25 July. [REDACTED] mentioned the pact which had been signed between PAZ Tejada and the opposition. The President expressed displeasure concerning this pact and said PAZ Tejada had had no right to sign it. He said martial law was declared in order to command and not to make agreements. BI, EC
4. [REDACTED] informed the President that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry is affiliated with various international organizations. The President said he did not know this. He said he was willing for the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to be re-established but that foreigners in Guatemala should not belong to it. He indicated that foreigners should form their own organization. BI, EC
5. As to the fines being applied to business houses the President suggested that they should be attacked legally by the opposition.
6. [REDACTED] mentioned that the opposition felt that BAUER Paiz should be made to resign. The President said he could not request his resignation at the present time since this would cause confusion and lack of confidence in his cabinet. He suggested to [REDACTED] however, that the opposition might make specific allegations against BAUER Paiz for illegal acts and request his resignation. [REDACTED] said he told the President that this was a machiavellian move and that he felt that it was the President that should take action against BAUER Paiz. BI, EC

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2/ of Enclosure to Despatch
no. 134/ Guatemala.

7. On the following day, 1 August 1950, [redacted] had an interview with Major Carlos PAZ Tejada and told him of his conversation with the President. He said that PAZ Tejada was very friendly and expressed a desire to collaborate with all elements for the tranquillity of the country. [redacted] said he mentioned to PAZ Tejada the necessity of deporting the top communist leaders in the country before there could be real tranquillity. He said PAZ Tejada expressed agreement with him in this matter but made no statement indicating any concrete action he intended to take.

8. [redacted] is leaving next week for the United States where he will attend to business matters in New York and Washington. He expects to be in Washington in the latter part of August. He said that he would like to call upon someone in the Department in order to inform them of his conversation with the President and acquaint them with the views of the groups which led the movement against the government from 20 to 25 July. I suggested that he ask for Mr. Clark, which he said he would do. Perhaps it would be a good idea to drop a note to Mr. Clark in advance.

/s/ Collins D. Almon
Civil Attaché

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